

conventional logical operations, such as fuzzy logic, phonetic comparisons or the soundex algorithm. Using such operations, simple single operations can be grouped into a series, thus forming a more complex or compound operation. This may be achieved, for example, by bracketing the appropriate simple operations to yield the compound operation.

Another aspect of this invention is demonstrated by the example in Figs. 5b-5d. Here, the operator term has been fused with entries from the entry/result list in Fig. 5a. This yields what may be called a hybrid search term. Choosing one hybrid term, will result in an update of the hybrid term list as well as the planet result list. Thus, the implementation of hybrid terms simplifies the act of searching, by cutting down on the number of steps the user must perform. At the same time, this simplified search approach maintains the benefits of updating the list of relevant terms.

Although this invention has been described in terms of illustrative embodiments, it is clear that other embodiments which will be apparent to those with ordinary skill in the art are also within the scope of this invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is defined only by reference to the claims set forth herewith.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a. performing an initialization step comprising entering a search term by
 - choosing at least one item of a displayed set of contents or entries of a database;

- b. entering at least one search command, said search command being defined by at least one operator chosen from a set of operators and at least one item chosen from the displayed set of contents or entries, the operator specifying an operation to be performed in relation to the chosen items and the data base;
- c. auditing at least one of (i) said displayed set, in response to the chosen operator, and of (ii) said set of operators in response to the chosen item, with reference to the contents of the database, and eliminating from the respective set all impossible items or operators, which would produce an unwanted result at the end of said database search, the auditing and eliminating being performed by an automatic auditing processor or auditing program means;
- d. displaying in a visible manner the remaining contents or entries of said displayed set, that can produce or indicate a wanted result; and

wherein steps b, c, and d are repeated until the wanted result is achieved.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said displayed set of contents or entries of said database are displayed in at least one list, table or multi-dimensional field.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the content can be displayed in any hierarchical order.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said unwanted result corresponds to a nullity.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said wanted result corresponds to a nullity.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed set of contents or entries of said database is a subset of all contents or entries of said database.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the contents or entries of said database which bear no relevance for the database search are not contained in the displayed set.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein any operation term which would produce said unwanted result from a set of displayed available operations is eliminated.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the search commands are entered by a conventional computer mouse-clicking mechanism followed by choosing a Boolean operator.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the search commands are entered as logical structured queries such as a SQL query.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the applicable operators comprise at least one of the group containing fuzzy logic, phonetic comparisons, mathematical comparisons or other logical operations.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the database contents or entries are represented by words, text or numbers.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the database contents or entries are represented by pictures, photos, drawings, designs, or other visual characterizations of a particular content.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the database contents or entries are represented by video or audio segments.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein a displayed list of database entries is merged with a number of operators of said set of operators to form at least one hybrid search term.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein a logical operator comprises a plurality of nested or combined single operators.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the progress and results of the database search are being displayed on a computer display.

18. A apparatus for displaying the progress and results of a database search, comprising:

a database comprising a plurality of entries;

a search processor for searching the database and retrieving one or more entries, wherein said search processor employs retrieval software to fulfill one or more operations to generate at least one search result list;

a displaying means for visually presenting said at least one search result list;

an auditing processor, that methodically determines all database entries capable of satisfying one of said operations, and eliminating from the displayed contents or entries all of said database entries that would produce an unwanted result upon satisfying the operation; and

a display processor, for visually displaying at least one of the results lists.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein all items which are not capable of satisfying said operation, are eliminated from said displayed contents or entries to avoid generating a null search response.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said operations are logical operations such as Boolean or SQL queries.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein a logical operator comprises a plurality of nested or combined single operators.

22. A method for displaying the start, progress and end-results of an operation, so as to enhance the probability of obtaining a desired object, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. performing an initialization step comprising entering at least one operand of a displayed set of operands;
- b. entering at least one command, said command being defined by at least one operator chosen from a set of operators and at least one operand chosen from the displayed set of operands, the operator specifying an operation to be performed in relation to the chosen operands;
- c. auditing at least one of (i) said displayed set, in response to the chosen operator, and of (ii) said set of operators in response to the chosen operand, and eliminating from the respective set all impossible operands or operators which would produce an unwanted result, the auditing and eliminating being performed by an automatic auditing processor or auditing program means;
- d. displaying in a visible manner the remaining operands of said displayed set that can produce a wanted result; and

wherein steps b, c, and d are repeated until the wanted result is achieved.

23. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program product,:

said program product comprising, a computer readable medium, having thereon, a computer code means which when loaded by a computer, directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and wherein said procedure being executed is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

24. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program element;

said program element comprising a computer code means which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and wherein said execution of said procedure is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

25. The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer readable medium;

said medium having a program recorded thereon which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and wherein said execution of said procedure being based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.